

What is claimed is:

CLAIMS

5     1.     A method comprising:  
          at least one of issuing and receiving one or more signals encoding at least one of  
audio information and an identification of a source of the audio information, the audio  
information being generated, at least in part, at the source, the identification being  
generated based, at least in part upon, identifying information provided at the source.

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2.     The method of claim 1, wherein:  
          the identifying information comprises at least one of:  
                  an alpha-numeric message entered via a telephone; and  
                  an identification code associated with a device that is capable of wireless  
15     communication.

3.     The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
          receiving at an intermediate node the audio information via an active audio  
channel;  
20     associating the active audio channel with the identification; and  
          transmitting the one or more signals from the intermediate node to one or more  
destinations.

4.     The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
25     providing, based at least in part upon the identification, at each of one or more  
destinations of the audio information, a respective user-appreciable identification of the  
source.

5.     The method of claim 1, wherein:  
30     the method further comprises:  
          receiving at an intermediate node the audio information;

determining, at least in part, at the intermediate node an amplitude of the audio information; and

transmitting from the intermediate node to one or more destinations the one or more signals, the one or more signals also encoding an indication of the amplitude.

6. The method of claim 3, wherein:

a public telephone network comprises the intermediate node; and  
the intermediate node comprises:

a database in which to associate the active channel and the identification;

and

a mixer to generate the one or more signals.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein:

a public telephone network comprises the intermediate node; and  
the intermediate node comprises a mixer to generate the one or more signals.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the source comprises at least one of a computer and a telephone.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the source comprises a microphone communicatively coupled to at least one of the computer and the telephone, the microphone being capable of generating the audio information.

10. An apparatus comprising:

circuitry to at least one of issue and receive one or more signals encoding at least one of audio information and an identification of a source of the audio information, the audio information being generated, at least in part, at the source, the identification being generated based, at least in part upon, identifying information provided at the source.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein:  
the identifying information comprises at least one of:  
an alpha-numeric message entered via a telephone; and  
an identification code associated with a device that is capable of wireless  
5 communication.

12. The apparatus of claim 10, also comprising:  
an intermediate node capable of receiving the audio information via an active  
audio channel, the intermediate node also being capable of associating the active audio  
10 channel with the identification and of transmitting the one or more signals from the  
intermediate node to one or more destinations.

13. The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising:  
one or more destinations of the audio information capable of providing, based at  
15 least in part upon the identification, at each of the one or more destinations, a respective  
user-appreciable identification of the source.

14. The apparatus of claim 10, also comprising:  
an intermediate node capable of receiving the audio information, the intermediate  
20 node also being capable of determining, at least in part, an amplitude of the audio  
information and of transmitting from the intermediate node to one or more destinations  
the one or more signals, the one or more signals also encoding an indication of the  
amplitude.

25 15. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein:  
a public telephone network comprises the intermediate node; and  
the intermediate node comprises:  
a database in which to associate the active channel and the identification;  
and  
30 a mixer to generate the one or more signals.

16. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein:  
 a public telephone network comprises the intermediate node; and  
 the intermediate node comprises a mixer to generate the one or more signals.

5 17. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein:  
 the source comprises at least one of a computer and a telephone.

18. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein:  
 the source comprises a microphone communicatively coupled to at least one of  
 10 the computer and the telephone, the microphone being capable of generating the audio  
 information.

19. Computer-readable memory having stored therein instructions that when executed  
 by a machine result in the following:  
 15 at least one of issuing and receiving one or more signals encoding at least one of  
 audio information and an identification of a source of the audio information, the audio  
 information being generated, at least in part, at the source, the identification being  
 generated based, at least in part upon, identifying information provided at the source.

20 20. The memory of claim 19, wherein:  
 the identifying information comprises at least one of:  
 an alpha-numeric message entered via a telephone; and  
 an identification code associated with a device that is capable of wireless  
 communication.

25 21. The memory of claim 19, wherein the instructions when executed by the machine  
 also result in:  
 receiving at an intermediate node the audio information via an active audio  
 channel;  
 30 associating the active audio channel with the identification; and

transmitting the one or more signals from the intermediate node to one or more destinations.

22. The memory of claim 21, wherein the instructions when executed by the machine  
5 also result in:

providing, based at least in part upon the identification, at each of one or more destinations of the audio information, a respective user-appreciable identification of the source.

10 23. The memory of claim 19, wherein the instructions when executed by the machine also result in:

receiving at an intermediate node the audio information;

determining, at least in part, at the intermediate node an amplitude of the audio information; and

15 transmitting from the intermediate node to one or more destinations the one or more signals, the one or more signals also encoding an indication of the amplitude.

24. The memory of claim 21, wherein:

a public telephone network comprises the intermediate node; and

20 the intermediate node comprises:

a database in which to associate the active channel and the identification;

and

a mixer to generate the one or more signals.

25 25. The memory of claim 23, wherein:

a public telephone network comprises the intermediate node; and

the intermediate node comprises a mixer to generate the one or more signals.

26. The memory of claim 19, wherein:

30 the source comprises at least one of a computer and a telephone.

27. The memory of claim 19, wherein:

the source comprises a microphone communicatively coupled to at least one of the computer and the telephone, the microphone being capable of generating the audio information.

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28. A system comprising:

a circuit board comprising a circuit card slot;

a circuit card capable of being inserted into the slot, the circuit card comprising circuitry to at least one of issue and receive one or more signals encoding at least one of  
10 audio information and an identification of a source of the audio information, the audio information being generated, at least in part, at the source, the identification being generated based, at least in part upon, identifying information provided at the source.

29. The system of claim 28, wherein the circuit board further comprises:

15 a processor coupled to the slot via a bus.

30. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

displaying at each of one or more destinations of the audio information, a respective user-appreciable identification of the source and a respective user-appreciable  
20 indication of the amplitude of the audio information.

31. The apparatus of claim 10, also comprising:

one or more destinations of the audio information capable of displaying a user-appreciable identification of the source and a respective user-appreciable indication of the  
25 amplitude of the audio information.

32. The memory of claim 19, wherein the instructions when executed by the machine also result in:

displaying at each of one or more destinations of the audio information, a  
30 respective user-appreciable identification of the source and a respective user-appreciable indication of the amplitude of the audio information.